Drought management in the UNCCD agenda

Peter MOLNAR
UNCCD National Focal Point
General Directorate of Water Management

Training course on drought risk assessment
Budapest, 6 Nov 2018
• UNCCD convention

• Drought in UNCCD agenda
  • UNCCD Strategy
  • Drought Initiative
  • National Drought Plans
  • Drought Toolbox
  • DMCSEE

• EU relevance
driven by drought/desertification in Africa, but increasing relevance in Europe

Article 1
Use of terms

(c) “drought” means the naturally occurring phenomenon that exists when precipitation has been significantly below normal recorded levels, causing serious hydrological imbalances that adversely affect land resource production systems;

(d) “mitigating the effects of drought” means activities related to the prediction of drought and intended to reduce the vulnerability of society and natural systems to drought as it relates to combating desertification;
Decision 7/COP.13
The future strategic framework of the Convention (2018–2030)

Vision
A future that avoids, minimizes, and reverses desertification/land degradation and mitigates the effects of drought in affected areas at all levels and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within the scope of the Convention.

Strategic objectives
• Strategic objective 3: To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems
  • Expected impact 3.1 Ecosystems’ vulnerability to drought is reduced, including through sustainable land and water management practices.
  • Expected impact 3.2 Communities’ resilience to drought is increased.
Decision 20/COP.13
“Requests the secretariat and appropriate UNCCD institutions and bodies, including the Science-Policy Interface, within their respective mandates to:
(a) Implement the drought initiative **for the biennium 2018–2019** which proposes action on:
  i) **Drought Preparedness Systems**;
  ii) Regional efforts to **reduce drought vulnerability and risk**; and;
  iii) A **toolbox** to boost the resilience of people and ecosystems to drought”

Decision 10/COP.13
“Authorizes the Executive Secretary, on an exceptional basis, to use an amount not exceeding **EUR 1,815,651** from the reserves of the Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the UNCCD **for the implementation of the drought initiative**, described in decision 29/COP.13”
Drought initiative is currently implemented in 43 countries - selected upon own request and - willingness to take part in the initiative - under certain requirements

Countries with the technical guidance of the UNCCD, WMO develop National Drought Plan

Tool Box - online knowledge management platform for all countries

Results of Drought Initiative - at UNCCD COP.14 (in 2019)
Main functions:

- To bring together a range of available, field demonstrated drought risk reduction options (One STOP shop)
- To help country consultants in identifying gaps in national drought policy plans
- To provide a resource/guide to plan action against drought
Purpose
• to better prepare for & respond to droughts
• to ensure water for all uses (incl. ecosystems are not threatened during droughts)

Methodology: A generic “10-Step process” developed by the University of Nebraska, USA.
10-Step Planning Process

Step 1: Appoint a national **Drought Management commission**

Step 2: Define the **goals** of the plan

Step 3: Seek **stakeholder participation**

Step 4: Inventory **data & resources** available

Step 5: Write the key **tenets** of the national drought plan

Step 6: Identify **information needs** and fill institutional gaps

Step 7: Feedback loop to integrate **science-policy** aspects

Step 8: **Publicize** the national drought plan

Step 9: Develop **education** programmes

Step 10: **Evaluate & revise** the plan
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phases</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Actions to be Considered  (Examples)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drought Advisory</td>
<td>• Abnormally dry</td>
<td>• Regular Monitoring, conduct intensive public information campaign</td>
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<td>• Stream flow, reservoir &amp; ground water levels start to drop</td>
<td>• Drought Commission monitors situation on monthly basis, discusses trends with Meteorology services, and others as appropriate</td>
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<td>Drought Alert</td>
<td>• PDI -1.0 to 2.0</td>
<td>• More close monitoring of conditions for persisting or rapidly worsening drought;</td>
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<td>• Stream flow, reservoir &amp; ground water levels below normal</td>
<td>• Assess the need for formal Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) activation</td>
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<td>• Damage to crops, pastures</td>
<td>• Restrict non-essential uses, etc.</td>
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<td>• Official drought not yet declared</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drought Warning</td>
<td>• PDI -2.0 to 4.0</td>
<td>• Implement stringent conservation measures</td>
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<td>• Stream flow, reservoir, ground water levels continue to decline</td>
<td>• Enact mandatory restrictions</td>
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<td>• Water shortages common</td>
<td>• The Drought Commission (DC) and Monitoring Committee (MC) are activated</td>
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<td>• Potential drought emergency Declared</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drought Emergency</td>
<td>• PDI exceeds -4.0</td>
<td>• Begin mandatory allocation,</td>
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<td>• Major crop/pasture losses; widespread water shortages</td>
<td>• Allow max per capita use of water</td>
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<td><strong>Drought Emergency is declared</strong> by Proclamation of the Head of State</td>
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<td>Coming out of Drought</td>
<td>• Return to normal conditions</td>
<td>• Long-term recovery operations continue</td>
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<td>• Lingering deficits, pastures, crops not fully recovered</td>
<td>• DC issues a final report and is deactivated.</td>
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<td>• Resume normal monitoring</td>
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Reducing drought impacts and building resilience

“overcoming the prevailing paradigm of ‘reactive’ and ‘crisis-based’ approaches to drought and moving towards ‘proactive’ and ‘risk-based’ approaches will be indispensable to reducing the risks and mitigating the impacts of droughts, floods and other extreme weather events”

Monique Barbut
Executive Secretary
UNCCD
UNCCD and WMO helped the establishment of the Drought Management Centre for Southeastern Europe

- Hungary among the founding countries

DMCSEE focuses on:

- monitoring and assessing drought and
- assessing risks and vulnerability connected to drought

in South-Eastern Europe
how EU is prepared legally and technically to cope with desertification and drought

Desertification: a consequence, but also a cause of CC

aggravated by more droughts, rising temperatures, less precipitation,
magnifies CC by reducing the capacity of soil to retain carbon

is the risk of desertification being addressed effectively and efficiently in the EU?

13 MS (incl. Hungary)
affected by desertification

Drought and desertification – closely related phenomena
Thank you for your attention